

END00-0027-US1
Amendment dated 2/2/2004

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REMARKS

Claims 1 - 14 are currently pending in the application.

Claims 1 - 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Komi et al. (6,477,185) and Mao (6,459,427). This rejection is traversed.

With respect to claims 1 and 8, the Examiner is equating the PID reference table 100 (also called the PID management table 100) of Komi et al. with the table ID field of claim 1,

“...determining presence of transport table sections in a payload portion of a packet of said datastream from a **table identification (TID) field** in a header of said packet...”

This is in error. The table ID field of the claimed invention is in the header field of the table section data structure of the MPEG-2 standard. The MPEG-2 standard has a nested layering structure. The Packet Identifier (PID) used by Komi et al. is part of the MPEG-2 Transport Stream header information. The tables on which the claimed invention are filtering are part of the transport stream packet payload. Figure 1 of this paper shows a simplified example of the location for the MPEG-2 system tables and table ID as well as the location of the PID. This figure clearly shows the PID used by Komi et al. to be at a layer different from the system table layer of the claimed invention. Furthermore, the figure shows the distinction between the PID used by Komi et al. and the table ID used by the claimed invention. The MPEG-2 specification includes several mandatory types of tables which describe the content of the stream. These tables include the Program Map Table (PMT), the Program Association Table (PAT) and the Conditional Access Table (CAT). The required tables specify programs in the stream, as well as necessary information such as the audio and video PIDs for each program. The same data structure can be used to send private data, such as a software update for the receiver. A table is transmitted as one

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or more table sections. The first field in the table section is the table ID, which allows the receiver to identify all of the table sections for a table so that the receiver can reconstruct the complete table data structure. The table ID allows multiple tables to be transmitted in a single transport stream. Table sections can span multiple transport packets that may be spaced some distance apart in the transport stream. The receiver must be able to reconstruct a table section as a continuous structure in memory. Furthermore, multiple table sections, or portions of them, may be contained in a single packet. Finally, table sections are repeated in a stream to permit random access by the receiver. Thus, once a particular table section is acquired, it is not necessary to acquire it again until it has changed. It is these table sections that are being filtered by the claimed invention.

This is in contrast to the tables defined by Komi et al. The PID reference (management) table 100, PID table 36, and the writing address table 101 are tables built by Komi et al. and stored as look up tables. The reference cited by the Examiner in Komi et al. refers to the PID reference table 100 that is created by collecting the Packet IDs from the packet headers and forming a table to relate the PIDs with the data types of the packets. These tables are created by Komi et al. by analyzing the incoming transport data stream and extracting the header IDs and other information. The claimed invention **does not create tables** but filters the existing MPEG-2 table sections using a filter ID (table ID). Therefore, as Komi et al. does not filter the existing MPEG-2 transport stream table sections, any combination with Mao can not result in the same functional system.

In addition, the claimed invention is filtering on the table ID so as to capture the system table information from the transport stream. This table information can include program guides and other identifying information. Once this information is captured, the claimed invention is looking for a change in the table information. When a change is detected, the new table data is captured and used to change program viewing data. This is not the same as for Komi et al. Komi et al. is filtering using the

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PIDs that identify each and every multiplexed stream of audio and video data. Komi et al. then prioritizes decoding of the data based on the PIDs contained in the packet headers. Therefore, not only is the physical data used for filtering different but the performance of the system as a result of the filtering is significantly different. Thus, any combination of Komi et al. with Mao would not result in the claimed invention.

Referring to claims 2 and 9, the Examiner is suggesting that Komi et al. in combination with Mao is using a control word to filter the transport stream. This is also in error. First of all, column 11, lines 5 - 11 of Komi et al. refers to a PID filter 31 which has been created from the PIDs located in the packet headers and is not related to the table sections of the MPEG-2 transport stream. In addition, neither Komi et al. or Mao use the term *control word* as recited in claim 2,

“...said filter ID is implemented in a control word.”

Furthermore, as discussed above, the claimed invention is filtering the MPEG-2 table sections using the filter ID implemented as a codeword. While Komi et al. is extracting higher priority packets from the data stream using the PIDs that have been extracted from the packet header and stored in a table created by Komi et al. at the receiver location. Therefore, any combination of Komi et al. and Mao could not give the same result as the claimed invention.

With respect to claims 3 and 10, the Examiner is again citing column 11, lines 5 - 11 as a reference for the filter ID. The PID filter 31, of Komi et al. has been created from the PIDs located in the packet headers and is not related to the table sections of the MPEG-2 transport stream. The concept of section filter ID and next filter ID as recited in claims 3 and 10,

“...filter ID includes a section filter ID and a next filter ID...”

does not make sense in the context of a PID table 36 as defined by Komi et al. That is because only the claimed invention is filtering the MPEG-2 table sections using the filter ID relative to tables. Komi et al. is extracting specific data packets based on priority information that is determined with the PID and stored in a table called a PID

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Management Table (PMT). This table is unrelated to the MPEG-2 system tables, that are created with the MPEG-2 encoded transport stream. The functions provided by Komi et al. and the claimed invention are completely different. Any combination of Komi et al. and Mao would not result in filtering the sections tables as discussed above for claim 1 since Komi et al. does not filter on the system tables.

Similar arguments are appropriate for claims 4, 11, 5, 12, 6, 13, 7, and 14. Komi et al. is filtering using PIDs from a different locations and layer (or level) of the transport stream than that accessed by the claimed invention. The tables mentioned in the claimed invention are different from the tables in Komi et al as explained above and shown on Figure 1 of this paper. The Komi et al. tables have been created by Komi et al. using the PID and are stored as part of the Komi et al. system. The claimed invention is using the table sections and the IDs within those table sections to filter the transport stream. Komi et al. does not use or address the MPEG-2 system table as does the claimed invention. Therefore, there is no combination of Komi et al. with Mao that would get filtering using the MPEG-2 system table information.

In view of the foregoing, it is requested that the application be reconsidered, that claims 1 - 14 be allowed, and that the application be passed to issue.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at 703-787-9400 (fax: 703-787-7557; email: Monte@wcc-ip.com) to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

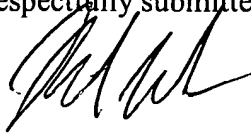
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If an extension of time is required for this response to be considered as being timely filed, a conditional petition is hereby made for such extension of time. Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Deposit Account 09-0457 (IBM-Endicott).

Respectfully submitted,



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